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17 March 1953

Interception of US Aircraft off Kamchatka

1. A USAF aircraft was fired on by a MIG-15 off Kamchatka Peninsula in the Soviet Far East at 1230 local time (0200Z) on 15 March 1953.

2. USAF press announcement:

1. The US aircraft was an RB-50 of the Alaskan Air Command flying routine weather reconnaissance from Eielson Air Force Base, near Fairbanks Alaska.
2. The US aircraft was intercepted by two MIG-15's at 54° 02'N, 161° 04'E, 25 miles off the East coast of Kamchatka, about 100 miles northeast of Petropavlovsk.
3. One MIG-15 fired on the RB-50 which returned the fire. There was no known damage to either aircraft.

3. Top Secret report from Alaskan Air Command:

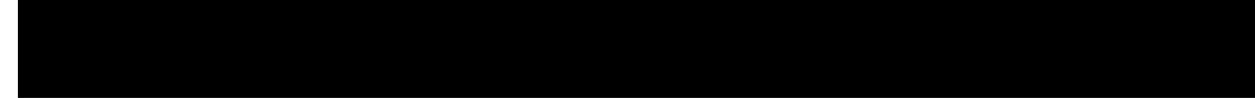
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1. The RB-50 was [REDACTED] in the vicinity of Petropavlovsk, departing Shemya Air Force Base in the Aleutians at 2109Z, 14 March.
2. The US crew reported two encounters with jet fighters, probably MIG-15's, at 54° 02'N, 161° 04'E.
3. In the first encounter, two MIG-15's flew parallel to the RB-50 about 10 miles away, without attacking. In the second, one MIG-15 made a firing pass, starting at 25,000 feet and breaking off the attack at 13,000 feet as the bomber returned the fire.
4. The RB-50 entered the cloud undercast at 10,000 feet and returned immediately to Shemya, landing at 0400Z, 15 March.

~~TOP SECRET~~
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5. The aircraft was not within 20 miles of the Soviet coast
at the time of attack.



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